

Provincial Desk March 2026 **Provincial Desk**

A QUIET RENEWAL OF THE HEART



Greetings from the Provincialate. I wish you a blessed and joyful Easter.

At Easter, the Church invites us again into the mystery of life overcoming death, light dispelling darkness, and love healing division. This year, the celebration meets us at a moment that calls for a sincere renewal of heart and of our fraternity.

In John 20:1-8, Mary Magdalene finds the tomb empty, tells Peter and the beloved disciple, and later encounters the Risen Lord. The empty tomb is not an ending, but the beginning of encounter. Easter is not only about a tomb in Jerusalem; it is about our lives. Each of us knows what can enclose the heart: mistrust, resentment, fear of the present and of the future, discouragement, division. The Risen Lord calls us, personally and gently, to step out of these inner tombs and to walk in the freedom, joy, and hope of His Resurrection.

In the spirit of our founder, Francis Libermann, we are reminded of what must remain central in our communities and in our apostolate: "Love one another with a tender charity; bear with one another's weaknesses, and support one another in all things." This is a quiet but demanding path: to forgive readily, to be patient with one another, and to carry each other with understanding in the ordinary rhythm of our life and ministry.

With this same fraternal spirit, we remember with sorrow our dear confreres, Fr. Peter Assenga (First Assistant to the Provincial Superior) and Fr. Daniel Macha (former Provincial Superior). We commend them to the Lord in the hope of the Resurrection, trusting that they now share in His eternal joy. May their witness continue to guide and strengthen us.

Our recent Provincial Chapter has given us a clear and timely call: to strengthen unity in the Province and to foster reconciliation where it is needed. Easter offers us a grace-filled moment to receive this call. The Risen Lord greets His disciples with peace, even after they had failed Him. In the same spirit, we are invited to rebuild trust, to begin again where needed, and to walk together in *Cor Unum* spirit.

Claude Poullart des Places expresses the heart of our vocation in simple and enduring words: “Let charity be the bond that unites you; let it be sincere, constant, and practical in your life together.” Our communities are most faithful to this vision when charity is not only spoken of, but quietly practiced in daily acts of service, patience, and understanding.

The gesture of the Lord washing the feet of His disciples remains a lasting image of our calling. To wash one another’s feet is to accept one another as we are, to serve without seeking recognition, and to love without condition. Here we find the path to authentic unity and the heart of our Spiritan identity.

We do not celebrate Easter apart from the suffering of the world. Many of our brothers and sisters continue to endure war, violence, and uncertainty, as seen in places such as Iran, Democratic Republic of Congo and other troubled regions. Closer to us, there are those who suffer quietly, those who feel unheard or overlooked, and those who face real economic hardship in the missions. The Resurrection does not remove suffering, but it gives it meaning and opens it to hope. We are called to be bearers of that hope, wherever we are sent.

As the Risen Lord walks with us, may this Easter be a time of quiet renewal, a time to strengthen our bonds of fraternity and to serve God’s people with steady joy and generous hearts.

May the Risen Christ lead us from every darkness into the light of renewed fraternity and mission.

Happy Easter!

UCEAF MEETING IN NAIROBI RENEWS COMMITMENT TO SHARED MISSION



Joint meeting: Superiors, Bursars and Formators

Leaders of the Union of the Circumscription of Eastern Africa (UCEAF) gathered in Nairobi from 26 to 27 April for their biannual meeting, reflecting on shared challenges and renewing their commitment to mission.

Held twice a year, in April and November, the Superiors' meeting remains a key moment of collaboration and discernment. However, in response to rising travel costs, one of the two annual meetings is now conducted via Zoom. Fr. Jeff Duaima, the UCEAF Rome Correspondent, also takes part in these important sessions, which not only strengthen the shared Spiritan mission in Eastern Africa but also support the coordination of the region's three common houses of formation.

A part of the meeting focused on feedback from the Enlarged General Council (EGC), held in Chevilly, France, in June-July 2025. Insights shared by one of the Superiors helped enrich discussions and align UCEAF's priorities with recommendations made to the General Council.

The gathering also reflected a strong synodal spirit. While the Superiors met, Formators and Bursars held their own sessions, later coming together for joint discussions before engaging with the Superiors. This collaborative approach fostered mutual appreciation and encouragement among the different groups.

As in previous meetings, participants addressed ongoing challenges, including the timely payment of school fees, the training of formators, and the maintenance of shared formation structures. A particularly heartfelt appeal was made for greater collective ownership of the mission in South Sudan, entrusted to UCEAF.



Gratitude was also expressed to the Generalate for supporting the project of refurbishment of the formators' residence (white house) at the Spiritan Missionary Seminary in Njiro (SMS), which marks its 40th anniversary this year, an important milestone for the UCEAF.




Bound by a shared history and mission, UCEAF Superiors reaffirmed that each circumscription stands to gain through unity. This unity is more than an administrative necessity; it is a vital and lived reality

for the mission they carry forward together.



Venue : Carolus Retreat Centre

Dates:

-  **Group 1:** June 21 – 27
-  **Group 2:** June 28 – July 05
-  **Group 3:** August 02 – 08

BIRTHDAYS

April		
Peter	KWAY	03
Josephat t.	SHIRIMA	04
Felix	JUBU	04
Dickson	DAUD	08
Joseph	FLORIAN	10
Zeno	LELO	12
Thaddeus	SIYA	14
Adam	BAGO	15
Appolinarius	MSAKY	24
Simplis	LAKSHI	27
Gaudence	MUSHI	29

Fraternally,



Florentine Mallya, CSSp.
Provincial Superior



PROVINCE OF TANZANIA-PROFILE



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